

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 5 have been amended. Claim 1 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-5 remain pending and are presented for consideration in this application. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Leach (U.S. Patent 6,137,868). The Examiner has objected to applicants' claim 2 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants' claim 1 has been canceled. Applicants' claim 2 has been amended to include therein all of the limitations of now-canceled claim 1. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection to claim 2 be withdrawn.

Applicants' claim 3 has been amended to depend from applicants' claim 2. Since dependent claims 3 and 4 depend, directly or indirectly, from objected claim 2, it is requested that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 be withdrawn.

Applicants' independent claim 5 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 2. Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 2 sets forth subject matter not disclosed in the cited art of record, by objecting to applicants' claim 2, it is submitted that applicants' claim 5, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the cited art of record. It is therefore requested that the rejection of applicants' claim 5 be withdrawn.

Reconsideration of the claims and allowance of this application are respectfully
requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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